substantial benefits to the users particularly in rural areas. The wider use of non-conventional sources of energy including solar energy for power generation would depend on the availability of financial re-sources.

Purchase of Crude Oil

1149. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase a large quantity of crude oil as compared to last year;

(b) if so, what is the total amount that would be spent by way of foreign exchange for purchase of crude oil for this year;

(c) whether Government has negotiated with any foreign companies for purchase of crude oil; and

(d) if so, which are the companies and what is the price of crude oil per barrel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) A quantity of 18.34 million tonnes of crude oil is estimated to be imported during the current year as compared to 15.5 million tonnes imported during the previous year.

(b) It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 3104 crores would be spent on import of crude oil during the current year.

(c) and (d) Some of the imports are made on term contracts and the rest on the spot market. The term contracts are signed with the National Oil Companies of the exporting countries like USSR, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran and Kuwait and the prices are generally official prices as fixed by OPEC.

Construction of Balrampur Thermal Power Station

1150. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed construction of thermal power stations at Balrampur in Gonda district and Suhawal in Faizabad district of UP is not taking place since long; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government propose to start the construction work in the near future or there is any proposal to assign the same to private parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) No proposal in regard to a thermal power station at Balrampur in Gonda district or at Suhawal in Faizabad district in U.P. has been received in the Central Electricity Authority. However, a thermal power station with four units of 110 MW each is presently under construction by the U.P. State Electricity Board at Tanda in Faizabad district.

Work on Koel Karo Hydro-Electric Project

1151. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2964 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the work on the Koel Karo Project in Chotta Nagpur-Santhal Pargana region of Bihar has since been commenced; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to expedite its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The work on Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project is held up du